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Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Dutch fear threat to liberalism in "soft drugs" curbs

AMSTERDAM, The Netherlands - The Netherlands is embarking on a crusade against its multi-billion-euro marijuana industry, with significant implications both for its economy and its famously liberal approach to life.

Along with tighter control of legalized prostitution and a swing to the right in attitudes toward immigration and Islam in recent years, the clampdown is seen as further evidence of an erosion of tolerance in a country known for its liberal social policies.

The push to clamp down on soft drugs has come mainly from the Christian Democrats, the junior partner in the minority government and one of the larger parties in a fragmented political landscape.

"There's clearly a shift in the moral debate. It's all about the culture of control," said Dirk Korf, professor of criminology at the University of Amsterdam.

Instantly recognizable from the sickly sweet, burned-leaf smell that wafts out onto the street, the Netherlands' world-

renowned "coffee shops" are almost as common as supermarkets in big cities such as Amsterdam and Rotterdam and in certain border towns.

Like trained sommeliers, the staff or "bud tenders" are experts on the flavors and after-effects of whatever is on the menu -- white widow, vanilla kush, or hazers like amnesia "known for its extreme, almost paranoid psychedelic high, with an unforgettable strong fruity taste and smell."

The Netherlands tolerates the sale of up to 5 grams per person per day of marijuana and hashish in the controlled environment of the coffee shops. It also tolerates the home cultivation of marijuana plants, within a limit of five plants per person, but any cultivation larger than that is illegal.

Strong demand has spawned secret cannabis plantations that provide a so-called back-door supply to the coffee shops and are a headache for Dutch authorities who have to find and raid them.

Loyal Divi Phoenix visitors honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba



Recently a group of loyal visitors from Aruba were honored as distinguished visitors of Aruba. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for between 10 and 19 consecutive years. All of the honorees are members of the Divi Phoenix Aruba Beach Resort and has been coming to Aruba for 10 or more consecutive years. The honorees are Mr. Lionel and Mrs. Linda Mc Caskie from Rosedale NY, Mr. Donald and Mrs. Jean Bates from Netcong NJ and Mrs. Shirley Buck from Youngstown OHIO. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel, representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, together with Mrs. Avril of the Divi Phoenix activities department.

Moody's: EU crisis, US stalemate could force US recession

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Failure by US politicians to bridge their divide over deficit cuts and continued stumbling by European leaders could force the US into recession over the next 12 months, Moody's Analytics said yesterday.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at the private economic research group, said that the economy would grow at a 2.0 percent annual pace in the second half of 2011, picking up to 2.5 percent next year, only if politicians do not slash spending, which would further hit growth.

"The US economy is growing, but at a frustratingly slow pace that leaves it vulnerable to a new downturn if anything else goes wrong," said

Zandi. "This outlook remains tenuous, however, with a 40 percent chance that the US will see a recession over the next six to 12 months," he added.

"There are three principal

threats to the economic recovery: The European debt crisis, the US foreclosure crisis, and the widening rift between Congress and the administration over fiscal policy."

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Ghislaine representing Aruba in the Miss Continente Americano 2011 pageant



Miss Aruba 2010 runner-up Ms. Ghislaine Geerman yesterday flew to Ecuador to represent Aruba in the Miss Continente Americano 2011 pageant. The final election will take place on October 22 and Ghislaine promised to do her utmost to Aruba proud of her. New Star Promotion representatives and family members went to the Queen Beatrix International Airport to bid Ghislaine farewell wishing her lots of success. Photos show Ghislaine at the airport moments before flying to Ecuador.



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New KLM flights to Aruba launched this month



Aruba is set to enjoy a boost in popularity among British travellers as a result of additional flights to the island being made available this winter.

From October 30th 2011, Dutch airline KLM will increase its number of weekly services to the destination from three to five.

UK travellers planning to connect to Aruba can catch flights to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport from 15 UK Airports, including London, Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow.

The flights will depart from Amsterdam on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays,



days, Fridays and Sundays at 12:45 hours and will arrive in Aruba at 17:50 hours on the same day. The return flight will depart from Aruba on the same days at 19:10 hours, arriving in Amsterdam the next day at 11:10 hours, leaving plenty of time for connecting flights to/from the UK.

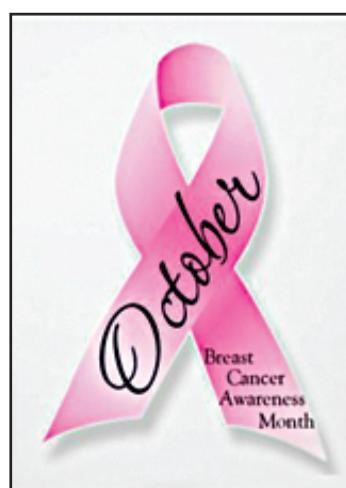
Fliers will be able to choose from a range of in-flight products and services

including a business class option.

Aruba Tourism Authority UK director Joanna Walding comments: "The new flights will further reinforce Aruba as one of the top 10 Caribbean destinations for British travellers. With KLM's increased service this winter,

getting to Aruba is easier than ever before. With temperatures rarely dipping below 28°C, the island is the perfect destination for some winter sun."

People planning a trip to the island can also fly with British Airways via the US, while TUI flies directly to the destination from the UK between the months of May and October.



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Aruban kids visit Magic Live! show at Westin Resort



Last week, local kids enjoying a week vacation from school, visited the amazing, Magic Live! show, at the Westin. It was just the perfect family event.

"We just loved IT!" says little Kia, who floated-in-the-air.

An unbelievable evening of grand illusions, hilarious

comedy and magic, highly interactive show. See it LIVE, nightly, at 9 p.m. Tickets are available at the door; the room seats 200 persons.

Don't miss Magic Live! show theater, at the Westin Resort, Aruba.

Additional info: www.WestinAruba.com/magic

Dutch Caribbean Coast Guard strengthens its ties with French Maritime authorities

WILLEMSTAD -- The Coast Guard has strengthened its co-operation with her French maritime partners. Recently a delegation of the French Customs visited the Coast Guard Headquarters on Curacao. Last week the Coast Guard received a visit from the maritime representative of the Prefect of Martinique.

The Dutch Caribbean Coast Guard cooperates intensively with the French maritime authorities, especially in vicinity of the Windward islands of the Kingdom (Sint Martin, Saba and Statia). This cooperation focuses both on the maritime law enforcement as well on maritime safety. On the latter, maritime safety, the RCC Curaçao coordinates on a regular basis Search-and-Rescue actions with its partner RCC in Fort-de-France (Martinique).

Several SAR actions have been conducted in good cooperation using both French assets and assets of the Coast Guard. This includes flying assets from substation Hato and maritime assets from substa-



tion Sint Martin. Regarding maritime law enforcement, both French and Dutch Caribbean Coast Guards have to coordinate their operations, since the territorial waters are almost bordering around some islands. Further, valuable information is exchanged on a regular basis.

As the Kingdom of the Netherlands, France is treaty member of the so-called "Treaty of San José". The purpose of this treaty is to improve and strengthen the counter illicit trafficking in the

Caribbean region by enhancing the cooperation and coordination of the treaty members. The treaty enables members, with permission of the other state, to operate in each others waters and to conduct inspections on each other vessels when situation dictates.

Photo show the French



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Charise Hodgson completes 5 years at American Home Assurance Company



American Home Assurance Company recently celebrated the first lustrum of Ms. Charise Hodgson with the company. Charise is an accountant by profession and has worked in the tourism industry and even ran a company of her own in accounting

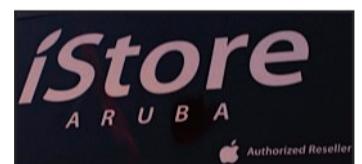
and tax administration before joining American Home Assurance Company as a financial controller 5 years back. Since then Charise has attended various in-house training courses of AIG corporate office for continuous career enhancement.

Charise looks back at 5 years of hard work with satisfaction and looks forward to continuing with the company for many more years. Her special interests include reading books and playing tennis with her kids. Charise is married to Mark Hodgson, an architect by profession with two lovely daughters – Nicole and Denise.

Prakash commended Charise for all the hard work put in by her during these years and requested to carry on her good work and find more challenging rewards in a multi-national company like AIG. The entire staff joins in extending best wishes to Charise.

Photo shows receiving her well-earned recognition from the hands of Prakash Gupta, Managing Director of the company, accompanied by colleagues.

Now Open -- iStore Aruba, the first Apple Concept Store in the Southern Caribbean



Surrounded by well-wishing family members and friends Milo Croes Jr. made his dream of many years come true, that of opening the first Apple iStore in Aruba and watching with great pride the recent ribbon cutting ceremony, at Ponton 67-B.

The stylish, contemporary store will be selling only Apple products and all Apple related products and accessories. As Aruba's first iStore, it will be serving both the local and the tourist markets, bringing the Apple brand and culture closer to the community here.

Milo Croes Jr. reports the entire family was anxiously waiting for opening day, having discovered the ease of using MAC computers many years ago, in the spirit of the famous saying: Once you go MAC, you never go back.

The new iStore, he explains, will deliver quality products, backed by the Apple guarantee and enhanced with added value for shoppers, by means of training and educational programs. The opening of the store, he adds, was made possible just recently, in fact this month, October of 2011, when Apple initiated a WORLDWIDE Apple iStore program, known as AAR PLUS, Apple Authorized Reseller Plus Program.

The opening of the iStore Aruba was affected by family members and featured the re-

lease of colored balloons in the style adopted by Apple concept stores world over. The family also filmed the opening for YouTube, determined to spread the word internationally that Aruba is among of the most technologically advanced countries in the world.

Apple computers, says Jouel M. Croes, an architect by profession and Milo's dynamic son, have become the most developed, leading innovative computers of all times, and Aruba should be proud to have its own iStore, attesting to the island's level of development.

Milo incidentally is the modern day word in Greek for Apple, he banters, apparently, my father was destined to open a store by that name!

For the coming month, the iStore Aruba offers a special for anyone who buys an Apple computer, by entering their names in a campaign to win a MACBOOK AIR 11.6".

For more information contact the iStore Aruba, (Dynamic System), Ponton 67-B, Unit 2, Tel: 5886248 / 5882167, email: info@istorearuba.com, Owner/Director: Milo J. Croes and Jouel M. Croes.

Bon Bini Festival is tonight



ORANJESTAD -- The weekly Bon Bini Festival takes place tonight at the Fort Zoutman in Wilhelminastraat. Come mingle with the locals and enjoy a taste of Aruban culture.

This week the festival will feature the traditional Aruba caha di orgel by Nos Ambiente, folkloric music by Ola Tropical, dance performance by Masiduri, trio performance by Jacobs Family, poem declaimed by Laura Kock, soloist Quincy Hasham and brass band TBS. The event will be hosted by Ryan Maduro.

During the festival there will be local food, sweets and traditional local arts and crafts on sale.

Arabus has regular busses from all hotels areas to Oranjestad Central Terminal, which is only a short walk from Fort Zoutman. Round trip bus fare is \$2.30. The festival is from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Entrance fee is \$3.

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Island Extravaganza 2011 begins at Renaissance Mall & Marketplace

It was announced by Renaissance marketing executives that the second edition of the Renaissance Island Extravaganza began yesterday, October 10, offering island residents and visitors the opportunity to shop, dine, play and win big over the next 8 weeks. Last year's inaugural Island Extravaganza was such a success, "we had to do it again this year" stated Renaissance Shopping Center Marketing Coordinator Edaliza Weller.

The inter-island contest will take place both on Aruba and Curacao, with winners on each island receiving equal prizes.

Eight weeks of doing holiday shopping at the numerous stores within the two malls will result in raffle tickets for every purchase of 25 Aruban florins, which can then be placed in the

tumblers distributed throughout the centers. Enjoying a coffee at either of 2 Starbucks, or taking in a movie at The Cinemas will also award a raffle ticket, simply take your ticket stubs, shopping or Starbucks receipts to the Island Extravaganza info booths to receive your raffle tickets and the chance to win extravagant prizes, such as the grand prize: a 2011 fully-equipped MG6 Fastback from Motor World.

Beginning on Friday, October 21, there will be a weekly drawing for a 500 Aruban florin gift certificate good at the Renaissance Mall or Marketplace.

The final drawing at 9:00 PM on Saturday evening, December 3, will award not only a new car, but also:

- Cruise trip for 2
- Trip for 2 to Miami
- Trip for 2 to Curacao
- \$1000 Renaissance Mall

and Marketplace Gift Certificate

Dinner for 2 at L.G. Smith's Steak & Chop House

Lunch for 4 at Aquarius Restaurant

A Couple's Massage with the Okeanos Spa in the Renaissance Resort

Deadline for placing raffle coupons in the tumblers is 8:00 PM on December 3; they will not be accepted after.

Of particular interests to vacationers participating in the raffle is a special drawing for a trip for 2 back to Aruba, including airfare and hotel. The drawings will be the highlight of the 12-hour grand finale at the Renaissance Marketplace featuring a food festival, cultural carnival show, live entertainment and fireworks. Winners should be present during the raffle to claim prizes, and carry a valid ID.

Players at the Seaport and

Crystal Casinos can also use their member cards to accumulate points towards raffle coupons. Every 25 points results in a raffle ticket, as well as combinations, per table game rules.

Participating Renaissance Mall and Marketplace shops are open six days a week from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM, and some on Sunday; shoppers will be rewarded with double raffle coupons when shopping between 6:00 and 8:00 PM.

For more information on prizes and Island Extravaganza Rules, visit the Renaissance Mall and Marketplace websites: www.shoprenaissancearuba.com or www.arubacrystalcasinos.com. Visit their Facebook page and become a fan to receive updates on special offers and more opportunities to win.

by Rosalie Klein

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

International News

Europe, US alarmed by Christian clashes in Egypt

LUXEMBOURG (AFP) - Europe and the United States yesterday expressed alarm and deep concern at sectarian clashes which killed 25 people, mostly Coptic Christians, in Egypt and called for minorities to be protected.

European nations, the White House and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon called for an investigation into violence which sparked fears of widespread sectarian unrest and stressed the need to defend all faiths in Egypt.

"I am very concerned, very

alarmed about the clashes," British Foreign Secretary William Hague said at talks with his 26 European Union counterparts, in Luxembourg.

"It is very important that the Egyptian authorities reaffirm the freedom of worship," he said after the clashes that broke out during a Coptic protest against a recent attack on a church in the southern city of Aswan. "The ability to worship in peace is a vital component of any free and democratic society."

The White House said Obama was "deeply concerned" about the situation and said it believed that minorities -- including Copts -- must be respected along with the rights to religious freedom and peaceful protest.

Spokesman Jay Carney said the "tragic events" in Egypt should not stand in the way of "timely elections and a continued transition to democracy that is peaceful, just and inclusive."

Ban called on Egyptian military authorities to defend "all faiths" in the country after the clashes and asked Egyptians to "preserve the spirit of the historic changes" witnessed during the Arab Spring uprisings, a spokesman said.

"The secretary general is deeply saddened by the loss of life in Cairo last night," said UN deputy spokesman Eduardo del Buey.

Germany meanwhile said it was "very worried" about the situation in Egypt.

"We can only call on the Egyptian government to get to the bottom of these incidents as soon as possible and bring those responsible to justice," Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman Steffen Seibert told journalists.

"We encourage the Egyp-

tian government to do everything in its power to foster an atmosphere of religious tolerance," he added, calling for respect for the rights of the Coptic Christian minority.

German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle called on all sides to exercise restraint and moderation, while his Italian counterpart Franco Frattini urged EU "condemnation of the very serious violence against Christians, the Egyptian Copts", who he said were fleeing in "exodus".

Noting "an escalation" in violence against the country's Christians, Frattini said: "We hope the response of the Egyptian authorities will be more energetic than under (former president Hosni) Mubarak, which was insufficient."

At least 40 people were arrested in central Cairo when a Copt demonstration degenerated into deadly clashes that also left more than 300 people wounded.

It was not immediately clear how many of those detained were Muslim or Christian. Egypt's ruling military council, which took power when Mubarak was ousted in a popular revolt in February, ordered a probe into the clashes.

The events in Egypt were "extremely worrying," said EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton. She urged Egypt to move towards elections "with a desire to see all people part of those elections and to protect the people, whoever they are, wherever they come from, whatever belief and faith they have".

"We need to see the words of the Egyptian authorities turn to action."

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero "deeply regrets" the clashes, his office said in a statement.



COLOMBIA, Bogotá - The President of the Palestinian National Authority Mahmud Abbas (2nd R) speaks with his ambassador to Colombia Imad Jadid Naba'a upon arrival to Catam military airport, in Bogota on October 9, 2011. Abbas is in a three-day unofficial visit to pitch UN recognition (AFP PHOTO)

Colombian family pleads for return of abducted girl

BOGOTA (AFP) - The family of a 10-year-old Colombian girl kidnapped last month issued an impassioned plea yesterday for her return amid continued uncertainty about who abducted her.

In the September 29 abduction, which shocked many in a nation hardened to violence and kidnappings, unidentified gunmen took Nohora Valentina Munoz, 10, who was on her way to school with her mother.

The girl's mother was freed shortly after they were first held. The victim is the daughter of Jorge Munoz, mayor of the Arauca town of Fortul.

The kidnapping took place in a region where security forces clashed with National Liberation Army (ELN) guerrillas, members of the second largest rebel group in the South

American nation.

But a statement attributed to ELN rebels in Arauca on Saturday said the kidnapping was by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) -- the country's oldest and biggest insurgent group.

"There is total uncertainty. There is no real clarity about who the perpetrators of the kidnapping are and what they want," said Munoz.

"So we ask those who kidnapped our daughter to identify themselves."

Since the girl's kidnapping, authorities have pulled out all stops to try to find her.

Colombia's Defense Minister Juan Carlos Pinzon has offered a 100 million peso (\$52,000) reward for information leading to the girl's release.

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Massive floods sweep across Thailand



THAILAND, AYUTTHAYA--Photo shows hai villagers paddling a boat past a giant "leaning" Buddha statue as floodwaters inundated an ancient temple in Ayutthaya province, north of the capital Bangkok, yesterday. More than 250 Thais have died after two months of heavy rainfall have inundated large swathes of the country and hit provinces on the northern outskirts of the capital particularly hard. The record flooding in Thailand is set to worsen as massive volumes of water move from the country's north towards the sea. (AFP PHOTO)

Nigeria warned it risks revolution if anger unaddressed

ABUJA (AFP) - Nigeria risks revolution if the government does not address mounting frustration in one of the world's most corrupt countries, a committee appointed by the president to probe post-vote violence said yesterday.

"General insecurity of life and property in people's houses and on the highways and kidnapping are adding fuel to the fire of public frustration and disappointment," committee chair Sheikh Ahmed Lemu said when presenting its report.

"The true state of affairs could escalate to social revo-

lution if preventive measures are not taken in time."

The committee appointed by President Goodluck Jonathan issued the warning in its report to the government after having spent months investigating riots following April elections that left more than 800 people dead.

Jonathan pledged to implement recommendations in the report.

"How do we prevent subsequent occurrence is the key thing that is dear to me," the president said when receiving the report. "On our part, we will follow your recommen-

dations."

Three days of rioting broke out in Nigeria's mainly Muslim north, where there was harsh opposition to Jonathan, who handily defeated his main opponent, former military ruler and northerner Muhammadu Buhari.

Jonathan is a Christian from the oil-producing south.

Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, is roughly divided in half between a mainly Muslim north and predominantly Christian south. The north is the poorer and less educated of the two regions.

Mexico cartel crackdown: 11 killed, 36 captured

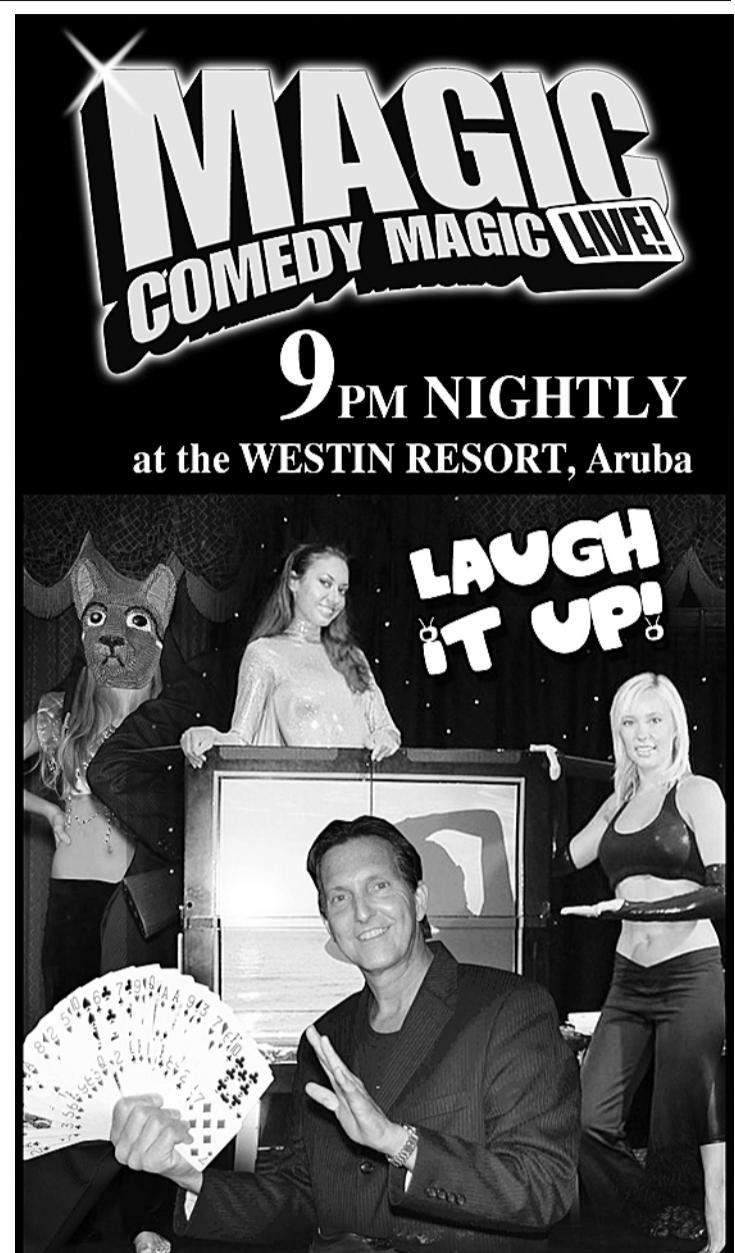
MATAMOROS (AFP) - The Mexican military killed 11 suspected Gulf cartel members and captured 36 more in a major crackdown that began last week, officials said yesterday.

Among those arrested was Gabriela Gomez Robles, known as "La Gaby," who is believed to be the finance chief of the drug-trafficking group, said military spokesman Admiral Jose Luis Vergara.

The operation was launched October 5 in Tamaulipas, one of the most violent areas in Mexico. Officials also seized four tons of drugs, numerous weapons and one anti-aircraft missile.

Tamaulipas is the scene of a bloody turf battle between the Gulf cartel and former allies known as the Zetas, led by former elite military officials.

More than 41,000 people have been killed across Mexico since the federal government in 2006 launched a crackdown against drug cartels, according to official data and media tallies.



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California bans minors from using tanning beds

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - California governor Jerry Brown won praise yesterday for banning under 18s from using tanning beds, the first US state to do so to protect minors from increased skin cancer risks.

Brown signed a bill into law Sunday after dismissing arguments from the tanning industry that the current law -- which requires children between age 14 and 18 to get parental consent -- was sufficient.

"California's decision to ban under 18 year olds from tanning beds is a welcome

step in the right direction for a needless exercise that is a known and significant health threat," Wendy K.D. Selig, head of the Melanoma Research Alliance.

"It is well documented that indoor tanning contributes to skin cancer, including melanoma, which can have fatal consequences," she added.

The MRA cited studies compiled by the World Health Organization which said there was a 75% increased risk of melanoma -- the most common cancer in US women age 25-29 -- in indoor tanning bed use.

Health & Living

Sperm donors father huge 'families' in US, Canada

MONTREAL (AFP) - In a scenario straight from science-fiction, experts are increasingly concerned about lax rules for sperm donors in the US and Canada where some men have anonymously fathered dozens of children.

Unlike in some countries such as France and Britain, there are no laws in either Canada or the United States officially limiting the number of children who can be born from a single donor, the Canadian health ministry said.

An international norm places the ceiling at 20 pregnancies from the same donor. In Denmark, the limit on a single donor is 25 births. And most sperm banks set their own regulations.

But the rules are not always respected. Some families try to create a "designer baby" by carefully choosing the donor from a catalog, drawn by his particular genes or characteristics, such as eye color or IQ level.

The practice has meant some of these star donors have now left a huge and at times overwhelming legacy, and the

issue has stirred recent debate in Canada and the United States, spawning a number of films and documentaries.

"Starbuck," a popular Canadian comedy released this year, told the story of a perpetual bachelor who accidentally fathers 533 children by selling his semen for quick and easy cash.

In a stranger-than-fiction twist, Toronto documentary maker Barry Stevens has used his experiences -- born in Britain through a donor who then went on to sire some 500 to 1,000 children during his three decades working with sperm banks -- to fuel his own work.

His siblings are now spread across Canada, the United States, Europe and beyond.

And last month the US Style Network channel launched a reality series called "Sperm Donor" in which one donor, Ben Seisler, 33, tells of his surprise on going onto the registry and of learning that "to date I know of around 70 kids."

-- Fears of incest and genetic disease --

Specialists warn over-reliance of one donor increases the risk of the transmission of genetic diseases and malformations, and some say there are dangers of inadvertent incest between half-siblings.

Juliet Guichon, a professor of bioethics at the University of Calgary, said involuntary incest with donor children happens more frequently than it might at first seem.

Guichon also noted that Canada lacks accurate data on the number of donor children in the country and suggested donor anonymity should be abolished to promote greater transparency and control.

Since 2004, donors have no longer been paid in Canada, leading to the depletion of stocks and forcing clinics to rely heavily on imports, especially from the United States.

The popularity of certain specific donors has also had a major impact. The US-based Donor Sibling Registry, which helps children get in touch with their half-brothers and sisters, highlighted the growing number of such families.

Healthy men don't need prostate screening: US panel

WASHINGTON (AFP) A US government panel has found that routine screening for prostate cancer does not help save the lives of healthy men and often triggers the need for more tests and treatments, US media said.

The US Preventive Services Task Force's draft recommendations, due to be made public next week, are likely to face a pushback from advocates of the PSA blood test as well as from drugmakers and doctors who benefit from the now-lucrative screening industry.

Based on the results of five clinical trials, the recom-

mendation to avoid a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test -- which measures the level of the protein in the blood -- applies to healthy men of all ages, The New York Times reported.

But it could have an especially dramatic impact on the care for men aged 50 and older, who are routinely administered the PSA test.

"If any benefit does exist, it is very small after 10 years," the task force said, citing two major trials in Europe and the United States on the value of PSA testing.

The task force also found no evidence that other forms

of screening, such as an ultrasound or digital rectal exam or ultrasound, are effective. It did not examine whether testing was beneficial to men who have already been treated for the disease or who show suspicious symptoms.

A million men, who had had the PSA test and would otherwise not have been treated, got surgery, radiation therapy or a combination of both between 1986 and 2005, the task force said, according to the Times.

At least 5,000 of them died shortly after surgery, while 10,000 to 70,000 experienced serious complications. Half of the men had blood in their semen on a regular basis, while 200,000 to 300,000 suffered from incontinence, impotence or both.

An estimated 217,730 men in the United States were diagnosed with prostate cancer and 32,050 died last year of the second most common form of cancer in men after skin cancer.

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Cuban Ladies in White fear for ailing leader's life

HAVANA (AFP) - Cuba's Ladies in White -- wives and mothers of political prisoners who have emerged as influential dissidents in their own right -- blamed the government for their leader's grave health condition.

Pollan, 63, was taken for hospital care on week-end in acute respiratory distress.

She has been diagnosed as having a virus, and is in "very serious" condition in intensive care at Havana's Calixto Garcia Hospital.

Berta Soler, another top leader of the group said no one has identified the virus that is ailing Pollan, who has diabetes and a heart condition.

Pollan's husband, former political prisoner Hector Maseda, told AFP that his wife was being cared for ably,

but that her virus had not yet been diagnosed.

The Cuban government accuses the Ladies in White, winners of the European Parliament's 2005 Sakharov Prize, of provoking disturbances to highlight an alleged increase in repression, though Havana freed about 130 political prisoners between July 2010 and March 2011 with church mediation.

The ladies group was founded after the arrest and imprisonment of 75 Cuban dissidents like him in 2003. The group marches peacefully in Havana every Sunday in white clothing, a color they say is intended to symbolize peace, often carrying gladioli.

An estimated 50 political prisoners remain behind bars in this Caribbean country of 11 million.

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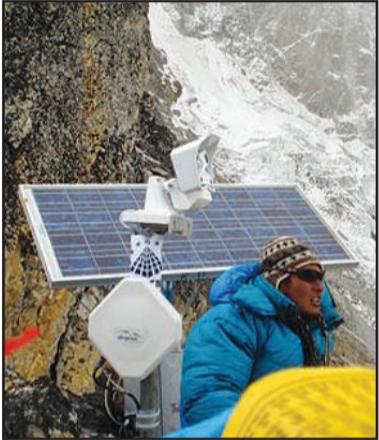


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Sci-Tech

World's highest webcam brings Everest to Internet



This image released by German surveillance firm Mobotix shows scientists from the Ev-K2 National Research Council installing a solar powered webcam at the summit of Mt. Kala Patthar.

KATHMANDU (AFP) - The world's highest webcam has been installed in the Nepalese Himalayas, beaming live images of Mount Everest back to scientists studying the effects of climate change on the planet's tallest peak.

The solar-powered camera, set at 5,675 metres (18,618 feet) on Kala Patthar, a smaller mountain facing Everest, will withstand temperatures as low as minus 30 degrees Celsius (minus 22 Fahrenheit) and operates during daylight hours.

The device, developed by German surveillance firm Mobotix, is more than a kilometre higher than the previous record for a high-altitude

webcam set by a 4,389-metre-altitude camera at the base camp of Mount Aconcagua in Argentina.

The image is updated every five minutes, allowing climatologists to track the movement of the clouds around the mountain's summit.

The camera, which went live in September, uses a wireless connection to transmit images to the Ev-K2-CNR Pyramid Laboratory, located at an altitude of 5,050 metres.

The footage is then analysed by scientists in Italy who hope to learn more about climate change and global warming using the images in conjunction with meteorological data gathered from Everest.

Apple says iPhone 4s sales over 1 mn in first day



for iPhone 4S have been the most for any new product that Apple has ever launched," said Philip Schiller, Apple senior vice president, in a statement.

The smart phone, which will sell for between \$199 and \$399, depending on memory capacity, will be available in Apple stores in the United States from October 14.

It will be available in 22 other countries, including much of Europe, by the end of October.

The 4S was launched on October 4, one day before visionary Apple co-founder and longtime Steve Jobs died following a long battle with cancer.

His health failing, Jobs had stepped down as chief executive in August and was replaced by Tim Cook, who

NEW YORK (AFP) - Apple said that pre-orders of the new model of its hit iPhone 4 topped one million units in the first 24 hours.

Worldwide advance orders for the iPhone 4S, said to be much faster than its predecessor and with improved video and photo capabilities, set a record for an Apple product, the company said.

"The first day pre-orders

presided over the launch of the new iPhone.

Underwater volcanic eruption near Spanish Canary island

MADRID (AFP) - An underwater volcanic eruption is taking place just off Spain's El Hierro island in the Canaries, which has been rocked by thousands of small tremors since July, local officials said Monday.

The eruption is taking place some five kilometres (three miles) from the island at a depth of more than 500 metres (1,500 feet) but its effects will not be felt on the island, said volcanologist Alicia Garcia of the Higher Council of Scientific Research.

"The earthquake monitoring stations on the island recorded the start of an eruption overnight. There is no visible manifestation at the moment," she told AFP.

The regional government of the archipelago issued a "yellow" volcanic eruption alert -- the second level on a scale of four -- after the island was hit by a 4.3-magnitude quake.

The earthquake was the

strongest of more than 8,000 tremors which the Spanish National Geographic Institute has recorded on El Hierro since they began in July. The majority have been too small to be felt.

"There was a volcanic eruption overnight, what we don't know is what is its state, if it has just started and if it is just releasing gases or if it is releasing magma as well," the head of the island's local council, Alpidio Armas, told Spanish public radio.

"If the magma gets out, which appears will be the case, it will mean that the seismic movements will decrease," he added.

El Hierro, which means iron in Spanish, is the smallest of Spain's Canary Islands, located in the Atlantic off the coast of Morocco. It is home to some 11,000 people.

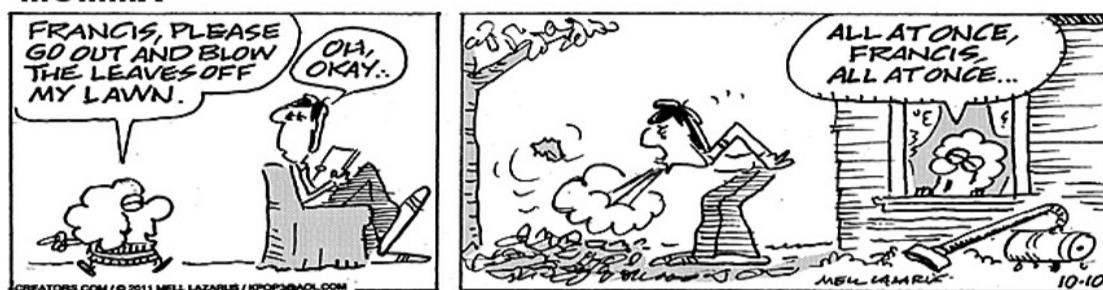
The last volcanic eruption on the Canary Islands was on nearby La Palma in 1971.

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MOMMA



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CROSSWORD

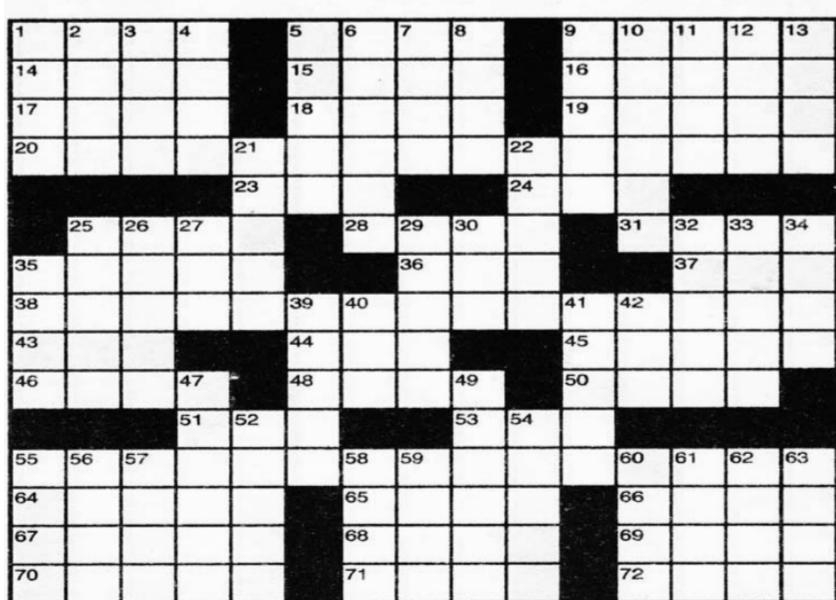
CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

1. Butter slices on ice
5. Ovaltine flavor
9. Slammin' Sammy
14. "A Narrative of Adventures in the South Seas"
15. Muddled
16. Oft-imitated Peter
17. Hourglass filler
18. Tough guy's telltale sign
19. Classic lemon
20. Trump work
23. It is, to Brutus
24. Summer in Paris
25. Disruptive child
28. British carbine
31. Bar baseball need
35. Theater play
36. Direction suffix
37. "Give ___ Sailor" (1938 Bob Hope film)
38. Grammy honoree
43. Woman whose name means "life"
44. 1997 U.S. Open golf champ Ernie
45. Reduces
46. Marries
48. Monastery product
50. Expense
51. ___ chi ch'uan (martial art)
53. Have supper
55. Tricky Dickens character
64. Lunar feature
65. Greedy
66. "Vissi d'___"



A FINE SUBJECT

10. Began to drop off
11. Celtic language
12. Zone
13. Secluded hollow
21. Do roofwork again
22. Redhead's secret
25. Alla ___
26. Competed at Indy
27. Latin I word
29. Like one giant tangled nerve
30. Relative of a joule
32. Not quite right
33. Prepare a new 'do
34. Uses a shuttle
35. Barrymore of "The Wedding Singer"
39. Asset balance
40. Word on a French map
41. Right-hand page
42. Eastern ideal
47. More hackneyed
49. Depended
52. Rocky crag
54. Confound
55. Speaker known as "The Grey Eagle"
56. School subj.
57. Grammy winner Fitzgerald
58. "Maggie's ___" (Dylan)
59. Eye part
60. Judith Anderson's title
61. Actress Linda
62. Major finale
63. Enjoy a book

SOLUTION

7	1	5	6	8	3	2	9	4
3	9	2	7	5	4	1	8	6
6	4	8	9	2	1	3	5	7
5	6	1	4	9	7	6	3	5
8	2	1	4	9	7	6	3	5
9	7	3	5	6	2	4	1	8
2	3	9	8	7	6	5	4	1
1	8	7	2	4	5	9	6	3
4	5	6	1	3	9	8	7	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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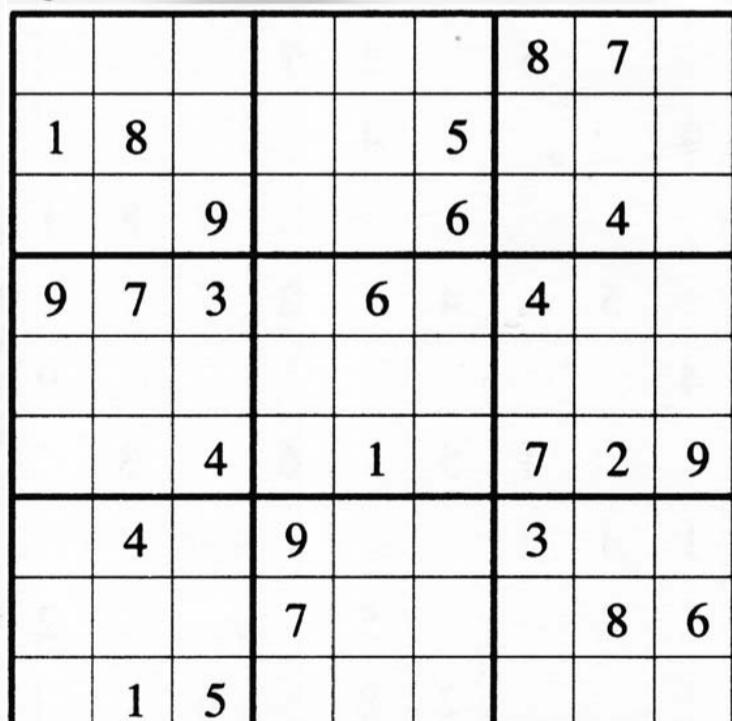
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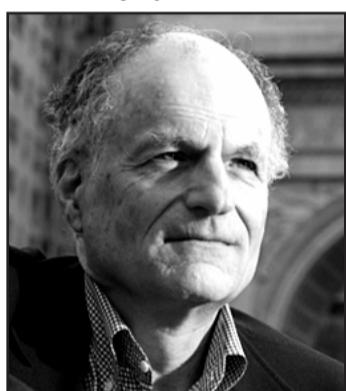
SOLUTION

Finance

US duo win Economics Nobel for macroeconomic work

Two US researchers won the 2011 Nobel Economics Prize yesterday for research on how different events affect economies and which could help find answers to the current crisis, the Nobel jury said.

Thomas Sargent and Christopher Sims, both 68, have developed methods that help answer questions "regarding the causal relationship between economic policy and different macroeconomic variables, such as GDP, inflation, employment and investments," the Nobel jury said.



Christopher Sims

price of oil or an unexpected drop in household consumption.

The laureates' work in the 1970s and 1980s provides methodologies that facilitate understanding of how both systemic policy shifts and so-called "shocks" affect the macroeconomy in the short and long run.

Sargent worked on structural macroeconomics, used to analyse permanent changes in economic policy, as well as the reciprocal relationship between the expectations of the private sector regarding future policy and actual policy decisions about wages, prices and investments.

"This method can be applied to study macroeconomic relations when households and firms adjust their expectations concurrently with economic developments," the jury said.

Sims has meanwhile focused on "how shocks spread throughout the economy," mapping the

effects of temporary changes in economic policy, like sudden central bank rate hikes or other unexpected factors.

While the pair worked separately, their work is complementary and "has been adopted by researchers and policymakers around the world," the jury said.

John Hassler, a member of the Nobel Committee at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences that attributes the prize, said the pair's methods could be used to understand the current economic crisis.

"We don't really have a good answer to what happened during the financial crisis nor what we should do in order to reduce the risk of something like this happening again, but we are pretty sure that the methods they have developed can help us in finding the answers to questions like that," Hassler said.

Sims, interviewed by telephone from the Nobel press conference, also said he hoped his research could be useful for solving the current turmoil.

"If I had a simple answer to that I would have been spreading it around the world. There's no simple way to do it, it requires a lot of slow work looking at data," he said.

"But I think that the methods that I've used and that Tom (Sargent) has developed are central to finding our way out of this mess."

Thomas Sargent

"Their combined work constitutes a solid foundation for modern macroeconomic analysis. It is hard to envisage today's research without this foundation," it added.

Economies are constantly affected by both anticipated events, like long term fiscal policy and shifts in monetary policies, and unanticipated events like sudden hikes in the

Greece hopes for improved debt deal after EU-IMF talks wrap

ATHENS (AFP) - Greece held out yesterday for improved debt rollover terms from its private creditors as the finance minister said he had concluded key talks with the EU and the IMF on an audit to unlock fresh loans.

"We are expecting a 'PSI plus,'" said Finance Minister

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



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Eurozone crisis stings Austria's Erste Bank

VIENNA (AFP) - Austria's biggest listed lender Erste Bank warned yesterday of a billion-dollar loss this year because of the eurozone debt crisis and problems with its eastern Europe operations, sending its shares plunging.

Erste Bank, one of the largest retail and corporate lenders in central and eastern Europe with 17 million customers in 10 countries, said it expects to end the year 700-800 million euros (\$0.9-1.1 billion) in the red.

And because of the ongoing debt crisis and global economic uncertainties, it said it would delay repaying a first tranche of 1.2 billion euros in state aid received during the 2008-9 financial crisis "by at least one year."

It stressed however that its underlying finances remained rock-solid and that it did not need more government money.

"Our hopes that we will see a solution to the sovereign debt

crisis in Europe in the near future have decreased considerably over the last couple of weeks," chief executive Andreas Treichl said in a statement.

"We now assume that this will increasingly also have an impact on the real economy and will also affect our region (central and eastern Europe), albeit less severely."

Shareholders in the 192-year-old lender will also go empty-handed this year, receiving no dividend.

The bank's plunged 16 percent in morning trade, but recovered somewhat to stand down 9.18 percent at 18.80 euros in late afternoon trade.

The announcement came amid growing concerns that the snowballing eurozone debt crisis will force governments to prop up ailing banks, with Franco-Belgian lender Dexia yesterday becoming the first to get state help since the crisis began.

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of: 10/10/2011	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
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	Dutch Antilles ANG	0.98	1.00	1.002
	Canada CAD	1.710	1.730	1.750
	Britian GBP	2.720	2.770	2.830
	Switzerland CHF	1.9628	1.9700	1.9780
	Netherlands EUR	2.3991	2.4210	2.4453
	Sweden SEK	0.2554	0.2626	0.2706
	Denmark DKK	0.3157	0.3229	0.3309
	Norway NOK	0.3006	0.3078	0.3158
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Love Me Do: McCartney weds US heiress in third marriage



LONDON: Beatles legend Paul McCartney (R) and his new wife Nancy Shevell (L) leave the Marylebone registry office in central London following their wedding on October 9, 2011. The 69-year-old singer, wearing a suit, waved to about 300 fans and well-wishers who had been waiting hours to see outside a Westminster register office. He posed for photos with 51-year-old Shevell, who wore a white-sleeved knee-length dress, and a flower in her hair.

AFP PHOTO

Jackson children ensure tribute concert is a success



Michael Jackson's children, Prince Jackson (L), Blanket Jackson (C) and Paris Jackson (R) on stage during the 'Michael Forever' concert in memory of the late Michael Jackson at The Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, Wales.

CARDIFF (AFP) - Michael Jackson's three children helped 40,000 fans honour the late pop legend on weekend as the "Michael Forever" show in Wales overcame a troubled build up to end on a high note.

There had been doubts over whether the tribute show would go ahead after months of controversy, but the presence of Prince, 14, Paris, 13, and nine-year-old Blanket along with star line-up ensured a celebratory atmosphere.

Host Jamie Foxx joined

Jackson brothers Marlon, Tito and Jackie on stage at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium for a triumphant rendition of "Don't Stop Til You Get Enough" to send most of the crowd home happy.

Headline acts earlier included US pop diva Christina Aguilera, Motown legend Smokey Robinson, British boy-band JLS and soul icon Gladys Knight.

Michael Jackson's sister La Toya said afterwards "Michael was enjoying the show" and that "having all these wonder-

ful artists coming together shows the children how special their father was".

But youngest child Blanket appeared overawed by the occasion, and had to be helped out by his older siblings while introducing R&B star Beyoncé's performance via satellite from the US.

The three children wore outfits inspired by different periods of their father's career.

The side show of family feuding, rumours of feeble ticket sales and a last-minute headline cancellation threatened to overshadow the main event, but despite a downscaling, those that were present made sure the empty seats went largely unnoticed.

"It was wonderful," said Joanne Webb from nearby Swansea. "I don't know why they had it in Cardiff but it's been great for the area, seeing all these people coming out and looking so happy."

Some fans and members of the Jackson family had questioned the timing of the concert with the trial of Conrad Murray, the doctor accused of Jackson's involuntary manslaughter, ongoing in Los Angeles.

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Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger



Aaron and Manager Marc Anthony

Expatriates residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," comments Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers—the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are made from hand-cut fresh Idaho potatoes, is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet



cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way—with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy friend onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batter-dipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner – daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner or Manager Marc Anthony when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a visit.

NFL: Big Ben shakes off injury to tie TD record



Head coach Hue Jackson and quarterback Jason Campbell #8 of the Oakland Raiders try to hold back tears during a moment of silence for Oakland Raiders owner, Al Davis.

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Ben Roethlisberger played through a sprained foot as he tied a team record with five touchdown passes and the Pittsburgh Steelers rolled over the Tennessee Titans 38-17 on Sunday.

Roethlisberger hit receiver Hines Ward with two touchdown passes. Other than a slight limp, the sprained left foot didn't seem to bother him too much.

"I'm not the only guy playing with an injury," Roethlisberger said. "I'm not going to complain about it, I'm going to go out and do my best."

He also connected with Mike Wallace, Heath Miller and David Johnson for scores as the Steelers won their third game of the season in week five and snapped Tennessee's three-game win streak.

The five touchdown passes equals a single-game franchise record that Roethlisberger already shares with Terry Bradshaw and Mark Malone.

Tennessee's Chris Johnson finished with 51 yards rushing on 14 carries.

Fred Jackson had 196 yards of offence and linebacker Nick Barnett had two of Buffalo's four interceptions in leading the Bills to a 31-24 win over the Philadelphia Eagles.

Barnett helped clinch the

win by intercepting a Michael Vick pass intended for Jason Avant with 1:49 left in the game.

Philadelphia quarterback Vick, who served almost two years in jail on a dog fighting conviction, tossed a career-worst four interceptions.

Vick's Eagles have just one win and four losses and are off to their worst start to the season in 12 years.

Jackson scored on a five-yard run and finished with 111 yards rushing in helping the Bills (4-1) match their best start since 2008.

The Oakland Raiders won the day after their controversial owner Al Davis died, beating the Houston Texans 25-20 on Sunday behind Jason Campbell's two touchdown passes.

Michael Huff intercepted quarterback Matt Schaub's pass in the end zone on the final play, and the Raiders ran to celebrate a bittersweet win Sunday.

Stadiums around the league observed a moment of silence Sunday to honour Davis, who died at his Oakland home at age 82.

His son, Mark, took his place in the owner's box, and the Raiders wore black decals on the backs of their helmets with the letters "AL" on them.

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NBA: Owners, players to meet for last-gasp talks

NEW YORK (AFP) - NBA owners, players and their union negotiators met for five hours Sunday in a last ditch bid to resolve their contract dispute and save the scheduled start of the regular season.

Negotiators for the owners and union brass again failed to agree how league revenues will be shared as the deadline for starting the season on time draws near.

"We're not necessarily any closer than we were going in tonight, but we'll be back at it tomorrow and we'll keep putting time in," union president Derek Fisher of the Los Angeles Lakers.

NBA commissioner David Stern said earlier that if they fail to hammer out a new deal then the first two weeks of the regular season would be cancelled.

The two sides still have three weeks before the opening day of the regular season on November 1.



All of the NBA's 114 pre-season games have already been wiped out by the contract dispute, over which the league locked out players on July 1.

The warring sides have met occasionally over the past few weeks as the NBA reportedly continued to insist it wouldn't move beyond the 50-50 split in league revenues that Stern proposed today.

The union rejected that, saying players wouldn't resume talks with any preconditions.

According to the New York Times, it wasn't clear if the league is now willing to move off of its 50-50 proposal, or whether the union has softened its insistence on receiving 53 percent of league revenues in a new deal.

They received 57 percent of "basketball related income" under the old deal.

Team owners and players have been haggling over how

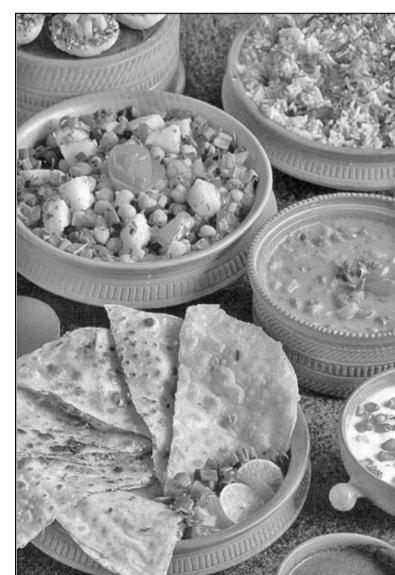
to divide \$3.8 billion in annual revenues and over salary cap issues.

The gaps in their positions has been so wide it could jeopardize the entire 2011-2012 campaign.

The only prior NBA season shortened due to money issues was in 1998-99 when the campaign was cut to 50 games per club because it took so long to reach a deal.

Only once in American sports history has an entire season been lost to players and team owners being unable to agree upon financial terms, that being the National Hockey League's lost 2004-2005 campaign.

NHL owners lost the entire season but generally were able to impose conditions they wanted in the eventual contract, which expires next September. Some owners of NHL teams that suffered through that missed season are among the NBA club owners who are involved in the latest deadlock.



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Brewers overpower Cards in game one



(L-R) Rickie Weeks #23 and Prince Fielder #28 of the Milwaukee Brewers celebrate after Fielder hit a 2-run home run in the bottom of the fifth inning.



A fan of the St. Louis Cardinals holds up a sign which reads "Cardinals Rule!" during Game one of the National League Championship Series.

MILWAUKEE (AFP) - Ryan Braun blasted a two-run home run and Prince Fielder homered in a six-run fifth inning as Milwaukee rallied to beat St. Louis 9-6 Sunday in game one of the National League Championship Series.

Yuniesky Betancourt also homered in the fifth for the Brewers, who won all three games at home in their opening round playoff series against Arizona.

Braun launched a tower-

ing 463-foot home run in the first inning and added a two-run double to finish with four RBIs.

Fielder's fifth-inning homer accounted for two runs, and Betancourt finished off the rally with a two-run home run of his own for the Brewers, who were facing the Cardinals in the playoffs for the first time since the 1982 World Series.

"That was a nice inning there," Brewers manager Ron Roenicke said. "It was nice Braun, in the first inning with the two-run homer. But to score like we did there, yeah, that's outstanding."

Milwaukee starting pitcher Zack Greinke, who was 11-0 during the regular season, gave up six runs on eight hits over six-plus innings.

David Freese blasted a three-run home run in the fourth inning for St. Louis, who are in the Major League Baseball playoff semi-finals for the 10th time in franchise history.

Jonathan Lucroy hit an RBI single off pitcher Kyle McClellan in the seventh to give Milwaukee a 9-6 lead.

Francisco Rodriguez pitched a scoreless eighth and John Axford threw a perfect ninth inning to help seal the Brewer's win.

The winner of the best-of-seven series will take on the American League champions in the World Series.

Game two is scheduled for today with St. Louis' pitcher Edwin Jackson going up against Milwaukee's ace Shaun Marcum.

"We'll come back out," Cardinals star Lance Berkman said. "The same thing happened to us in the first game against Philly. We were able to regroup."



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MLB playoff schedule

American League

DETROIT V TEXAS

Rangers 3, Detroit 2 (Rangers lead 1-0)
Sun - Oct. 9: Tigers @ Rangers (PPD)

Mon - Oct 10: Detroit @ Texas
Tue - Oct 11: Texas @ Detroit
Wed - Oct 12: Texas @ Detroit
Thu - Oct 13: Texas @ Detroit
Sat - Oct 15: Detroit @ Texas
Sun - Oct 16: Detroit @ Texas

National League

ST LOUIS V MILWAUKEE

Milwaukee 9, Cardinals 6 (Brewers lead 1-0)
Mon - Oct 10: Cardinals @ Milwaukee
Wed - Oct 12: Milwaukee @ St. Louis
Thu - Oct 13: Milwaukee @ St. Louis
Fri - Oct 14: Milwaukee @ St. Louis
Sun - Oct 16: Cardinals @ Milwaukee

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